

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 20 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **May 21, 2004**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103(b)

Claims 1 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Takemura.

The present invention is a stand-alone camera capable of cropping images based on selecting a portion of an image displayed on the screen. The portion of the images selected is based upon placing two vertical lines and two horizontal lines on the screen to form a rectangle. The rectangle formed is smaller than the image on the screen and can be moved throughout the screen.

Kato describes a camera control device suitable for use in a videoconferencing setting in which the camera panning, tilting and zooming is controlled based upon two images displayed on a screen. Specifically, a first image is the maximum image visible based on maximum wide angle zoom capable by the camera. The second image is a rectangular portion of the first image. The camera is able to move based on the position of the second image.

Takemura describes a method and system for image processing in which trimming of an image is possible. An image is displayed on a monitor (21). The cursor (22) is moved to desired position (P1) and the shutter button is pushed fixing the desired position (P1). The cursor (22) is then moved to desired position (P2) and the shutter button is pushed fixing the desired position (P2). A desired area (25) is thereby formed which is smaller than the image on the screen.

The Takemura reference discloses an image processing apparatus that sets a region to be trimmed by setting the upper left point and the lower right point. The size, shape, and position on the frame are defined by just setting the upper left point and the lower right point.

In contrast, in the invention of the present application, the size and shape are defined by setting the upper left point and the lower right point. However, the position on the frame is set separately.

The Kato reference discloses a device providing a motion window at a partial region in a still picture. However, the motion window provided at a region of the still picture is provided in accordance with the moving direction of the video camera. It differs from the method of the present invention by which a motion picture or a through picture is formed.

The applicant disagrees with the Examiner's statement of "Kato shows in Fig. 2 that current imaging visual field 44 is formed at a first point in the top left position of the monitor frame and a second point in the bottom right position of the monitor frame to form a rectangle, as recited in claim 1." Although current imaging visual field 44 shown in Fig. 2 in the Kato reference has a top left

point and a bottom right point since it is a rectangle, the size and position of current imaging visual field 44 are not defined by setting the top left point and the bottom right point.

The aspect ratio of current imaging visual field 44 in the Kato reference is constant independent of the size and position. In the invention of the present application, the aspect ratio of the motion image frame in the present invention can be set arbitrarily since the bottom right point with respect to the top left point can be set arbitrarily as long as it is located below and right to the top left point.

A person skilled in the art would not have arrived at the invention of the present application by combining the Takemura reference in which the size, shape and position on the frame are defined by just setting the top left point and bottom right point and wherein the motion image frame cannot be moved with the Kato reference.

Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A digital camera, comprising: image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object; a monitor for displaying an image; first forming unit responsive to a motion image frame forming instruction by an operator for forming a motion image frame smaller than a monitor frame on said monitor; and motion image display unit for displaying a motion image of said object picked up by said image pickup means in said motion image frame, wherein the motion image frame is formed at a first point in the top left position of the monitor frame and a second point in the bottom right position of the monitor frame to form a rectangle, wherein an aspect ratio of a motion image frame or through image can be set arbitrarily since a bottom right point with respect to a top left point can be set arbitrarily as long as said bottom right point is below and right to said top left point, setting the size and shape of a motion image frame by setting an upper left point and a lower right point, said motion image frame being movable on a monitor frame, and a position of the motion image frame on the monitor frame is set separately.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 8-11 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Takemura is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarbadhikari in view of Takemura.

Sarbadhikari describes an electronic imaging system having a digital camera, a computer system and a storage device. The storage device is used to store images taken from the camera and contains preloaded graphics which may be combined with the images taken by the digital camera.

The Sarbadhikari reference discloses an electronic image system that is capable of synthesizing images using a template. The size, position, and shape of the region displaying a captured image in the template are preset for each template, and cannot be set arbitrarily by the user as in the present invention.

A person skilled in the art would not have arrived at the invention of the present application by combining the Takemura reference in which the size, shape and position on the frame are defined by just setting the top left point and bottom right point and wherein the motion image frame cannot be moved with the Sarbadhikari reference.

Therefore, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A digital camera, comprising: image pickup unit for picking up an image of an object; a monitor for displaying an image; first forming unit responsive to a motion image frame forming instruction by an operator for forming a motion image frame smaller than a monitor frame on said monitor; and motion image display unit for displaying a motion image of said object picked up by said image pickup means

in said motion image frame, wherein the motion image frame is formed at a first point in the top left position of the monitor frame and a second point in the bottom right position of the monitor frame to form a rectangle, wherein an aspect ratio of a motion image frame or through image can be set arbitrarily since a bottom right point with respect to a top left point can be set arbitrarily as long as said bottom right point is below and right to said top left point, setting the size and shape of a motion image frame by setting an upper left point and a lower right point, said motion image frame being movable on a monitor frame, and a position of the motion image frame on the monitor frame is set separately." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5-7 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarbadhikari in view of Takemura is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarbadhikari in view of Takemura and further in view of Shibata.

Shibata describes a teleconferencing system in which a minor frame area may be placed in a corner of a major frame area for viewing.

Claim 4 is allowable by virtue of its dependence upon an allowable independent claim. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 4 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sarbadhikari in view of Takemura and further in view of Shibata is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 13, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Sarbadhikari and further in view of Takemura.

The Takemura reference discloses an image processing apparatus that sets a region to be trimmed by setting the upper left point and the lower right point. The size, shape, and position on the frame are defined by just setting the upper left point and the lower right point.

In contrast, in the invention of the present application, the size and shape are defined by setting the upper left point and the lower right point. However, the position on the frame is set separately.

The Kato reference discloses a device providing a motion window at a partial region in a still picture. However, the motion window provided at a region of the still picture is provided in accordance with the moving direction of the video camera. It differs from the method of the present invention by which a motion picture or a through picture is formed.

The applicant disagrees with the Examiner's statement of "Kato shows in Fig. 2 that current imaging visual field 44 is formed at a first point in the top left position of the monitor frame and a second point in the bottom right position of the monitor frame to form a rectangle, as recited in claim 1". Although current imaging visual field 44 shown in Fig. 2 in the Kato reference has a top left point and a bottom right point since it is a rectangle, the size and position of current imaging visual field 44 are not defined by setting the top left point and the bottom right point.

The aspect ratio of current imaging visual field 44 in the Kato reference is constant independent of the size and position. In the invention of the present application, the aspect ratio of the motion image frame in the present invention can be set arbitrarily since the bottom right point

with respect to the top left point can be set arbitrarily as long as it is located below and right to the top left point.

The Sarbadhikari reference discloses an electronic image system that is capable of synthesizing images using a template. The size, position, and shape of the region displaying a captured image in the template are preset for each template, and cannot be set arbitrarily by the user as in the present invention.

A person skilled in the art would not have arrived at the invention of the present application by combining the Takemura reference in which the size, shape and position on the frame are defined by just setting the top left point and bottom right point and wherein the motion image frame cannot be moved with the Kato reference.

Therefore, claim 20 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon by reciting,

“A digital camera having a recording mode for recording a through image of an object picked up through an optical system, a reproducing mode for reproducing a second recorded image, and an image synthesizing mode for generating a synthesized image of the through image and the reproduced image, comprising: image display unit for displaying an image; setting unit for setting, in said image synthesizing mode, a through image display area on a part of a reproduced image displayed by said image display unit; image synthesizing unit for generating said synthesized image by displaying the through image on the through image display area set by said setting unit; and recording unit for recording the synthesized image generated by said image synthesizing unit, wherein the through image is formed at a first point on the object in a top left position picked up through the optical system and intersecting at a second point on the object in a bottom right position picked up through the optical system to form a rectangle, wherein an aspect ratio of a motion image frame or through image can be set arbitrarily since a bottom right point with respect to a top left point can be set arbitrarily as long as said bottom right point is below and right to said top left point, setting the size and shape of a motion image frame by setting an upper left point and a lower right point, said motion image frame

being movable on a monitor frame, and a position of the motion image frame on the monitor frame is set separately.” (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 12, 13, 20 and 21 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato in view of Sarbadhikari and further in view of Takemura is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1 and 20, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

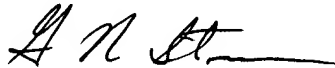
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/267,398
Response filed September 9, 2004
Reply to OA dated May 21, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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